

# Air Force to Review Discharges of Veterans who Suffered Mental Health Issues or Sexual Trauma

## News

September 28, 2023

The US Air Force agreed today to re-review the less-than-honorable discharges received by thousands of veterans because of mental health issues or sexual trauma experienced during their service.

Under the terms of the settlement, the Air Force Discharge Review Board (AFDRB) will reconsider its adverse decisions to ensure that it properly applies the applicable legal standards and liberally considers veterans' claims of mental health issues or sexual trauma when deciding whether to upgrade veterans' discharge statuses.

This decision will have dramatic impact upon affected veterans. According to an article by the *Air Force Times*, "Other-than-honorable discharges bar veterans from receiving benefits like Department of Veteran Affairs-run medical care, home loans and tuition assistance, and can hurt their chances of finding a civilian job. The settlement gives troops who served in Iraq and Afghanistan a path to claim the full slate of post-service government benefits after being shut out of the VA system."

This is the third victory in a string of similar class action cases Jenner has litigated, with the first two against the Army and Navy. Each branch agreed to significant policy changes to settle the claims. These cases were done on a pro bono basis in partnership with the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School.

Partners Jacob Tracer and Susan Kohlmann represent the veterans. Former associate Laurel Raymond also worked on this matter.

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